Bill has not been objected to. It is on these grounds that I moved for the suspension of the Rules and for the principle of the Bill being taken up for consideration at this meeting. As however the sense of the Council seems to be otherwise, I beg now to move that permission may be granted to me to introduce the Bill, and that the Bill be published in the Gazette, so that the discussion of the principle may be taken up at the next meeting of the Council.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE HIGH COURT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—Sir, I beg permission to move for the operation of the Rules being suspended under Section 66 of the Legislative Council Rules and to introduce the High Court Regulation Amendment Bill. The Bill, as the Statement of Objects and Reasons therefor shows, merely vests certain powers in a single Judge of the High Court. These are powers relating to miscellaneous matters and are mostly dealt with by a single Judge in the Madras High Court. I further move for the affirmation of the principle thereof. My reason for asking for the suspension of the Rules is that I consider the Bill urgent, as there is much congestion of work in the High Court, and it is desirable to pass the Bill into law by the time the High Court reopens after the coming midsummer vacation.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Copies of the draft Bill, with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, were then circulated among the members, and after the members had perused the Bill, Mr. Ananda Row's motion was taken up.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi.— I am of the view that the Bill should pass through the usual stages, as some of the provisions require careful study and consideration.

Mr. Kesava Pillai.— I too think that the power proposed to be given to single Judges in the matter of disposal of revision petitions, and probably also the last Clause in the Bill require study, and there may possibly be differences of opinion as regards these provisions. I am therefore for allowing the Bill to take its usual course. Leave may be granted at this meeting to introduce the Bill.

Permission was accordingly granted to the Mover to introduce the Bill at the next meeting of the Council.

The Council also resolved that the Bill be published in the Gazette immediately, so that the discussion of the principle may be taken up at the next meeting.

THE TOBACCO BILL.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—I beg leave to present the report of the Select Committee on the Tobacco Regulation Amendment Bill. The report and the amended Bill have been duly circulated among the Members and published in the Gazette. I beg to move that the Bill may be taken up for consideration.

Section 1.

Mr. Vieyra.—I propose to insert the word "it" between the words "a" and "shall" in line 3.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Section 6.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—I beg to propose that for the word 'Departments' in line 3, "Department" be substituted. The amendment is verbal.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

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Section 11.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—I propose that, in line 7 of this Section, the word 'Section' be substituted for "Sections".

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Section 25.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I think that the transport of tobacco should be controlled, when routes are prescribed for the purpose, in the same way as imports and exports of tobacco I therefore propose that the word "transports," be inserted before the word "imports" at the beginning of Clause (h),and the words "when such route has been prescribed" between the words "purpose" and "or" at the end of the Clause.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—In the same Section, I propose that the word "or" be inserted between "made" at the end of line 5 and "orders" at the beginning of line 6.

Seconded by Mr. Madhavan Tampi.

Carried.

Section 28.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—In clause (d), "Section 28" appears to be a mistake. I propose that the words "Section 25" be substituted.

Seconded by Mr. Kesava Pillai.

Carried.

Section 29.

Mr. Ananda Row.—In para 1, provision has to be made for the disposal, by the Magistrate, by confiscation or otherwise, of things other than tobacco, which may be found or seized with the tobacco itself under the Regulation. I therefore propose to recast the first para as follows:—

"When the offender is convicted, or when the person charged with an offence under this Regulation is acquitted, but the Magistrate decides that the tobacco or other things seized (if any) are liable to confiscation, such confiscation may be ordered by the Magistrate."

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr Krishnan Nair.—The proviso in the 3rd para of this Section, as it now stands, is applicable to the orders of confiscation that may be passed by the Magistrate referred to in para 1, as well as to those passed by the Excise officers referred to in para 2. But the time-limit and the hearing of the claimants prescribed by the proviso appear hardly necessary in the case of orders passed by the Magistrate, since such orders are, unlike those of the Excise officers, passed by him only after a judicial enquiry. Again, the option of paying fine provided in the fourth para of the Section is applicable to any case of confiscation under the Regulation. To avoid ambiguities, I would propose that the first para of the Section be numbered as Clause (i), the 2nd para with the 3rd para, as Clause (ii), and the last para as Clause (iii). To make the wording of the proviso precise, I also propose the insertion of the words "tobacco or other" between the words "the" and "things" in line 3.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

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Section 31.

Mr. Vieyra.—In view of the amendment adopted in Clause (b) of Section 25, I propose the insertion of the word "transported," between the words "be" and "imported" in line 2, Clause (b).

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—In view of the saving Clause (ii) in Section 2, the proviso coming after Clause (b) in the present Section is superfluous, and I therefore propose that it may be omitted.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

Mr. Ananda Row.—In accordance with the amendment in Clause (b), I propose that the word "transported" be inserted between the words "be" and "imported" in line 3, para 2 of the Section.

Seconded by Mr. Madhavan Tampi.

Carried.

Mr. Raman Pillai.—I beg to move that the Bill, as now amended by the Council, be read again on a future day of which due notice shall be given.

Seconded by Mr. Ananda Row.

Carried.

The Council adjourned at 2.40 P. M.

P. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
President.

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